

Jan. 4, 2013

Dear Building 46 occupants and other colleagues,

As you know, heavy winter rains have loosened the hillside above Building 46, posing the threat of a slide.

A team of geologists and engineers have been examining the hillside and trying to assess the possible risks of a greater slide. Over the break, their recommendation was to relocate staff from the uphill side of a north portion of Building 46, corresponding to approximately 45 occupants, and that process is already under way.

We are currently working to get additional data on the slide from borings in the next several weeks. Such data would allow us to make a more informed judgment of the risks.

I personally visited the site this week, and saw the slide first hand. Following this, I have decided to call for a more substantial relocation of staff from B46—at least for the time until we have the findings from the borings data.

I have asked Operations and Scientific Division leadership to work together to take a risk-informed approach that will effectively relocate most operations and scientific staff from the building, but allow a limited amount of mission-critical lab and engineering work to continue in cases where an alternative location cannot feasibly be stood up. We are asking the leadership team to work with supervisors to identify for B46 occupants suitable temporary alternate working locations onsite, nearby, or—where necessary business functions can be fulfilled—at home. Those who are permitted to continue work in the building may be asked to stop work and vacate the building as conditions change.

Once we have the coring samples and some time for the geologists and engineers to analyze them, we should be in a position to revisit this decision, hopefully before the end of January. The results of those, and other analyses, should give us a better indication of the length of time we need to keep the building vacant.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about your workspace or equipment, please contact the facility representatives helping on this effort: Kelley Toulouse at 495-8071 or Weyland Wong at 486-6045.

I recognize how disruptive this will be to the work life of staff and

to critical team efforts such as preparation for the ALS shutdown, but I believe it is a prudent step to protect the life safety of our colleagues. I appreciate your patience and cooperation as we work through this together.

Best wishes,  
Paul